Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN, VM, SWEL

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE DELEGATION JUNE 7 PAID CALL UPON UN DRUG ABUSE ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, EDUCATION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. UN REPS URGED VIETNAMESE ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONVENTIONS AND STATED WILLINGNESS SEND REPS TO EXAMINE SITUATION THERE IN CONTEXT OF OFFERING SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT MEASURES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE WITHIN MANDATES OF UN ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

- 1. VIETNAMESE DELEGATION CONSISTING OF MR. NGU YEN TRONG, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS; DR. THAN VAN GION, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND MR. HONG LOO PHONG, STATISTICIAN IN PLANNING DEPARTMENT, PAID CALL JUNE 7 ON DR. GEORGE LING, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS (DND). ALSO PRESENT WERE DR. VOJO DJQZANOVIC, DR. NIKOLA GEORGIJEVSKI, AND MR. COX OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, DR. KILIBARDA AND MR. SAENGER OF DND, AND MR. MACKENZIE OF UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL.
- 2. ATMOSPHERE OF HOUR AND QUARTER MEETING REPORTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CORDIAL. VIETNAMESE COMMENCED WITH RECRIMINATIONS ABOUT HARM DONE MEDICAL FACILITIES BY WARTIME BOMBINGS BUT, WITH PRODDING, SHIFTED TO DISCUSSION OF ROLE THEY -WITH UN TO PLAY IN HEALTH RELATED MATTERS.

3. TURNING TO DRUG ABUSE, VIETNAMESE SAID NUMBER OF ADDICTS IN VIETNAM UNKNOWN. THEY ESTIMATED TWO HUNDRED

THOUSAND IN SAIGON AND ENVIRONS, OF WHICH ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND WERE HARD-CORE DRUG ABUSERS. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED FIGURES WERE IMPRESSIONISTIC BECAUSE NO DATA AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT. THEY ALSO DESCRIBED OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS, ESTIMATING ONE MILLION VICTIMS OF VENEREAL DISEASE IN VIETNAM, AND HIGH BUT INDEFINITE NUMBER VICTIMS MALARIA, LEPROSY AND TUBERCULOSIS.

- 4. VIETNAMESE REQUESTED UN ASSISTANCE, SPECIFICALLY THAT OF UNFDAC, IN PREVENTION, EDUCATION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ASPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE CONTROL.
- 5. DR. LING SUGGESTED TO VIETNAMESE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBE TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONVENTIONS TO SHOW ITS SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS. WITH RESPECT TO THEIR REQUEST, HE SUGGESTED THT SRVN INVITE UN TEAM, CONSISTING OF REPS FROM INCB, DND, AND UNFDAC, TO VISIT VIETNAME TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM. THAT BEING DONE, UN WOULD BE IN POSITION TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS AS TO APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR THEM TO TAKE WITHIN CONTEXT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MANDATES. HE STATED THAT TEAM DURING ITS VISIT WOULD ALSO WISH TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF OPIUM CULTIVATION AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC WITHIN VIETNAM. VIETNAMESE DELEGATION EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUGGESTIONS WERE USEFUL AND THAT THEY WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH.

6. DURING DISCUSSION, VIETNAMESE SAID MANY COUNTRIES HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ASSISTING THEM WITH THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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MEDICAL PROBLEMS. DR. GION AND DR. DJUKANOVIC STATED THAT WHO REGIONAL OFFICE IN HANOI HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM WHITE HOUSE INQUIRING ABOUT DOMESTIC DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM.

7. VIETNAMESE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTRIBUTIONS OF PHARMACEUTICAL MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY ANTIBIOTICS, VITAMINS AND ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS DRUGS. DR. LING SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THEIR AVAILABILITY WITH APPROPRIATE PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS, WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE THEM. SORENSON

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Subject: VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL ASSISTANCE SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE DELEGATION JUNE 7 PAID CALL

UPON UN DRUG ABUSE ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING ASS ISTANCE IN TAGS: SNAR, SWEL, VM, UN To: STATE

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